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Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

February 9 – 13, 2004

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"I have finally taught Dean that he can do anything he wants, become mayor of Denver, marry a millionairess, or become the greatest poet since Rimbaud. But he keeps rushing out to see the midget auto races."

Jack Kerouac. *On the Road*

Budget Picture Slowly Coming into Focus

As reported earlier, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved what is essentially a discussion budget for Fiscal Year 2005 and forwarded it to the Office of Management and Budget. Though the budget calls for total funding for higher education to be down because of cuts in grants and some programs, the budget provides that appropriations for Governors State and the other public universities be essentially flat with Fiscal Year 2004. Dan LaVista, executive director of IBHE, and some his staff recently testified before the Illinois House Appropriations-Higher Education Appropriations Committee. While not endorsing the discussion budget, committee members approved the budget's emphasis on good stewardship of existing resources and enhanced accountability; the reallocation of limited financial aid resources to the most needy students; and the increased focus on access and economic development. Several committee members agreed with LaVista when he said that higher education "has already given at the office." Some committee members said that higher education has been "a model of responsibility" in the state's time of financial crisis. Governor Blagojevich will deliver his budget address this Wednesday. "After the Governor speaks, we'll have a better sense of what Fiscal Year 2005 may hold in store for us," President Stuart Fagan said. "But there will still be considerable uncertainty, because the issues will then be passed on to the Legislature." The Legislature is moving quickly. Governors State and the other public universities have been called to testify before the Appropriations-Higher Education Committee on February 26, just eight days after the Governor's address.

University-Wide Meeting Scheduled for February 24

President Fagan will bring the University Community up to date on developments in Springfield and discuss budgetary and other issues at a university-wide meeting at 3 p.m., Tuesday, February 24, in Sherman Music Recital Hall. Members of the Cabinet will be on hand to answer any questions. "We promised that we'd keep the community informed of developments as they occurred," Fagan said.

Seeking Funding Beyond State Appropriations I: Federal Earmarks

President Fagan and Provost Paul Keys will travel to Washington, D.C., February 19 to meet with several members of the Illinois congressional delegation or their staffs, including Senators Dick Durbin and Peter Fitzgerald and Congressmen Jesse Jackson, Jr., and Jerry Weller. They will bring with them a number of proposals for funding in areas including, among others, early childhood education, teacher education, development of health care professionals, and environmental protection, partnerships with community colleges, and distance learning. As an example, GSU entered into an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a project to preserve the wetlands on the campus. The Corps' funding was cut for FY05, and the project is at

risk. Fagan and Keys will ask the senators and representatives they visit to encourage Corps officials to make this environmental project a priority.

Seeking Funding Beyond State Appropriations II: Federal Grants

On February 23, Senator Dick Durbin will join Dr. Sandi Estep, professor of Educational Administration and coordinator of An Adventure of the American Mind project, in distributing laptop computers to teachers in local school districts. Earlier this month, Senator Dick Durbin visited GSU to announce An Adventure of the American Mind project, in which local schools will receive training and laptop computers to access materials in the Library of Congress. GSU is coordinating the project thanks to a grant from Senator Durbin.

Seeking Funding Beyond State Appropriations III: Alumni Phonathon

The Alumni Association will hold its annual Alumni Phonathon between March 1 and 14. "We're hoping to raise \$100,000 dollars between the Phonathon and a direct mail campaign that we started at the beginning of the fiscal year," said Rosemary Hulett-Cohee, director of Alumni Relations. Hulett-Cohee said the direct mail effort has yielded approximately \$18,000 since it began last July. Donations from the Phonathon will go into the Alumni Association's Annual Fund, along with the direct mail donations, and help fund scholarships, faculty development, and the University Library. "The Phonathon provides much-needed supplemental support to the university and its students," said Hulett-Cohee. Last year, the Phonathon raised \$75,000. To volunteer and help with the Phonathon, call the Alumni Office at Ext. 4128.

Bronzing Bourgeois

The Remnants of Ritual catalog authored by Dr. Arthur Bourgeois, professor of Art History, and Scott Rodolitz took the Bronze Award in a recent competition that included of 3,000 international entries. The award was bestowed by the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen for the catalog's placing in the organization's "International Gallery" Competition. The catalog was written by Bourgeois and Rodolitz to accompany the Remnants of Ritual art exhibition, which premiered at GSU last year from the Gelbard Collection. Since the GSU premier, Remnants and its catalog have appeared at the Krannert Art Center, Champaign Urbana; and the Belger Art Center, Kansas City, in their continuing tour. See more: <http://www.ethnos.com/cpd/CoverComp.pdf>; http://www.ethnos.com/cpd/ImageSect_v3_1-19.pdf; http://www.ethnos.com/cpd/ImageSect_v3_20-37.pdf; http://www.ethnos.com/cpd/ImageSect_v3_38-56.pdf; http://www.ethnos.com/cpd/Paging_Color.pdf

African American Read-In – February 16

GSU will participate in the National Council of Teachers of English's 15th Annual African American Read-In on Monday, February 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Sherman Music Recital Hall. The audience is encouraged to bring and read the poetry, literature, and plays of African American authors. Dr. Al-Hajjah Rashidah Jaami' Muhammad, coordinator for the English Program, said by way of invitation, "I look forward to seeing (and hearing from) all of you at this year's African American Read-In. Bring your families. Bring your students. Bring your neighbors. Bring your friends. Bring the man, woman, child on the street! In all our efforts to promote a global village, it is imperative to hear all the voices. During this month of Black History Celebration let us hear the spirit and fire of African American poets, orators, singers, musicians; religious, social and political leaders that help build what we know and love as the United States of America. Join me for the African American Read-In. I know you will find it an enjoyable, enlightening experience."

Victory Stage Coup for GSU

The Center for Performing Arts has teamed with Victory Gardens, Chicago's Tony-winning regional theater, to bring Free Man of Color to the Center March 7, at 7 p.m. "This is a powerful play," said Burton Dikelsky, director for the Center. The reviews back him up. "It's a coup for us to bring it here." The play, by Charles Smith, is set in 1824 and centers on the first student of color to attend Ohio University in an America still beset with slavery. The show runs at Victory Gardens through February 29, then comes to Governors State for its March performance. "We're thrilled to expand our productions out into the south suburban area," said Marcella McVay, director of the Victory Gardens Theater. "This is something we've wanted to do for a very long time." Check with the Center for possible GSU discounts.

Transformations Film and Discussion Series – February 18

The Graduate Council's film discussion series "Transformations" has thus far been a success. It's first two outings have yielded good turn-outs and, your humble correspondent, having been in attendance for both, can attest to the terrific post-film discussions. People dig this. So why not join the fun? *Adaptation* will show Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. Professor Dan Nearing will host the film and after-film discussion, both of which will revolve around screenwriting.

Oh, the Places They'll Go

The students in Smart Start and the Family Development Center will take a six-week, whirlwind tour of the world this March as part of an activity called "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" And you can be their guide. Here's the drill: the Family Development Center will be transformed into the different nations of the world over a six week period. The first week, kids pack. Then they're off to Australia, Ireland, Africa, Italy, and Mexico. If you have an affinity or connection to one of said countries, Smart Start would love to have you there to share your knowledge. "We would like to solicit help from the university community to help bring these countries alive for our pre-k students," said Cheryl Poulos, director of Smart Start. "They could show artifacts, costumes, speak the language, share foods, share music, or tell stories. If they can't be here in person, maybe they have some good ideas!" For more information, contact Poulos at Ext. 7329. Or send her an e-mail at c-polous@govst.edu.

From the Archives:

From the January 22, 1973 issue of the *Fazel*, GSU's early newsletter: "TAKE YOUR DICTIONARY TO LUNCH...Ped' ant: An academic in suspended explanation"

ELAINE STRAUSS (Comm.)